IN THE CLAIMS

1-3 (Cancelled)

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (Currently amended) A method of annealing a magnetic amorphous alloy article comprising the steps of:

(a) providing an unannealed amorphous alloy article having an alloy composition and a longitudinal axis;

(b) disposing said unannealed amorphous alloy article in a zone of elevated temperature while subjecting said amorphous alloy to a tensile ~~force~~ stress σ along said longitudinal axis to produce an annealed article; and

(c) selecting said alloy composition to comprise at least an Fe content larger than about 30 at%, Ni, Si, B and at least one element from the group consisting of Mo and Nb so that $dH_k/d\sigma>0$, where H_k is an induced isotropy field, and so that ~~df/dH~~ df_r/dH< 1000 Hz/Oe, where [[f]] f_r is the resonant frequency of the annealed article and H is a magnetization field strength, and the annealed article has an induced magnetic easy plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis due to a combination of said composition, said temperature and said tensile stress.

Claim 5 has been amended as follows:

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim [[4]] 55 wherein said amorphous alloy article has an article plane and comprising applying said magnetic field with a magnitude of at ~~last~~ least 2 kOe and a significant component perpendicular to the article plane.

6-16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 has been amended as follows:

17. (Currently amended) A method of making a marker for use in magnetomechanical electronic article surveillance system comprising the steps of:

(a) providing at least one unannealed amorphous alloy article having an alloy composition and a longitudinal axis;

(b) disposing said at least one unannealed amorphous alloy article in a zone of elevated temperature while subjecting said at least one amorphous alloy to a tensile stress σ along said longitudinal axis to produce at least one annealed article;

(c) selecting said alloy composition to comprise at least an Fe content larger than about 30 at%, Ni, Si, B and at least one element from the group consisting of Mo and Nb so that $dH_k/d\sigma>0$, where H_k is an induced isotropy field, and so that ~~df/dH~~ $\underline{df_r/dH}$ < 1000 Hz/Oe, where [[f]] $\underline{f_r}$ is the resonant frequency of the annealed article and H is a magnetization field strength, and said at least one annealed article has an induced magnetic easy plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis due to a combination of said composition, said temperature and_said tensile stress;

(d) placing said at least one annealed article adjacent a magnetized ferromagnetic bias element which produces a bias magnetic field; and

(e) encapsulating said at least one annealed article and said bias element in a housing.

18. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 56 wherein said at least one amorphous alloy article has an article plane and comprising applying said magnetic field with a magnitude of at least 2 kOe and a significant component perpendicular to the article plane.

19-50. (Cancelled).

51. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said alloy composition to additionally comprise Cr.

52. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said alloy composition to comprise Co in an amount less than or equal to about 4 at%.

53. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said alloy composition to additionally comprise Cr.

54. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein step (c) comprises selecting said alloy composition to comprise Co in an amount less than or equal to about 4 at%.

55. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 4 comprising applying a magnetic field to said amorphous alloy article in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis during step (b).

56. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 17 comprising applying a magnetic field to said amorphous alloy article in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis during step (b).